

Amendments to the Claims:

1 – 9. (Canceled)

5 10. (Previously presented) A method for inserting a medical instrument into a urethra, comprising the steps of:

 providing a urethral access device having an elongate tube with a lumen extending along an axis between a proximal end and a distal end, and a handle at the proximal end of the tube;

10 configuring the handle with a distally-facing, concave surface and proximally-facing surface, the distally-facing surface being sized and configured to receive two adjacent fingers of a user's hand;

 inserting the distal end of the tube into the urethra to an operating position in order to provide access for the medical instrument;

15 moving the medical instrument distally into the proximal end of the lumen of the tube and through the lumen of the tube into the urethra;

 during the moving step creating a distal force on the urethral access device; and

 applying a proximal force on the distally-facing surface of the handle to
20 oppose the distal force and maintain the access device in the operative position.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 10 wherein the configuring step further comprises the step of:

 forming the proximally-facing surface with a convex configuration.

13. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 10 further comprising the step of:

moving the handle distally axially along the tube beyond a predetermined position;

5 removing a portion of the tube extending generally proximally of the predetermined position; and

moving ~~[[this]]~~ the handle axially proximally to the predetermined position along the tube~~[[; and]]~~.

14. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

facilitating a generally fixed relationship between the handle and the tube at the predetermined position.

15 – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for providing a surgical access device with a desirable length, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tube having a working channel and a handle assembly having an engagement apparatus adapted to fit over the tube, the
5 handle having a movable relationship with the tube when the engagement apparatus is in a first state and a fixed relationship with the tube when the engagement apparatus is in a second state;

placing the engagement apparatus in the first state;

10 removing a portion of the elongate tube proximal to the handle to shorten the length of the tube generally to the desired length;

moving the handle to a predetermined proximal location along the tube;
and

placing the engagement apparatus in the second state to fix the handle to the tube at the predetermined location and provide the access device with the
15 desired length.

22. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 21 wherein the providing step includes the step of providing the engagement apparatus with an elastomeric washer sized and configured to fit around the tube; and

the second placing step includes the step of compressing the washer
5 around the tube.

23. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 14 wherein the facilitating step comprises the 2 steps of:

mounting a sleeve with an elastomeric washer on the tube; and
screwing the handle onto the sleeve.

24. (Withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 14 wherein the facilitating step comprises the steps of:

forming the handle with a distal cylinder having a thin portion with a reduced diameter: and
5 clamping an engagement apparatus onto the thin portion of the distal cylinder.

25. (Withdrawn) The method recited in Claim 21, wherein the handle comprises a distal cylinder and the engagement apparatus comprises a clamp compressible between a large diameter and a small diameter, and wherein:

the step of placing the engagement apparatus in the first state comprises
5 moving the clamp to facilitate the large diameter; and

the step of placing the engagement apparatus in the second state comprises moving the clamp to facilitate the small diameter.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for assembling a medical access device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tube having a working channel;

forming a handle assembly with a distally extending cylinder configured to
5 be disposed around the elongate tube;

providing a clamp that is adjustable between a first state having a large diameter state and a second state having a small diameter;

disposing the clamp over the distally extending cylinder;

moving the handle assembly relative to the tube with clamp in the first
10 state; and fixing the handle assembly onto the tube with the clamp in the second state.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein:

the step of providing a clamp comprises the step of forming the damp with finger tabs;

the step of moving the handle assembly comprises the step of
5 compressing the finger tabs; and

the step of fixing the handle assembly onto the tube comprises the step of releasing the finger tabs.

28. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a medical access device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tube having a working channel;

- providing an elastomeric washer with a lumen sized to receive the
5 elongate tube;
- providing a sleeve having external threads and configured to mount the
elongate tube;
- disposing the elastomeric washer within the sleeve;
- mounting the sleeve and the elastomeric washer onto the elongate tube;
- 10 forming a handle assembly with a nut having internal threads configured
to mate with the external threads of the sleeve, the nut being configured to
compress the elastomeric washer; and
- coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve such that the nut compresses
the elastomeric washer, coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve including
15 screwing the handle assembly onto the sleeve.

29. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 28, wherein the
step of forming a handle assembly with a nut comprises the step of forming the
nut as a cylinder.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method recited in Claim 28, wherein the
step of coupling the handle assembly to the sleeve such that the nut compresses
the washer comprises the step of decreasing a diameter of the lumen.